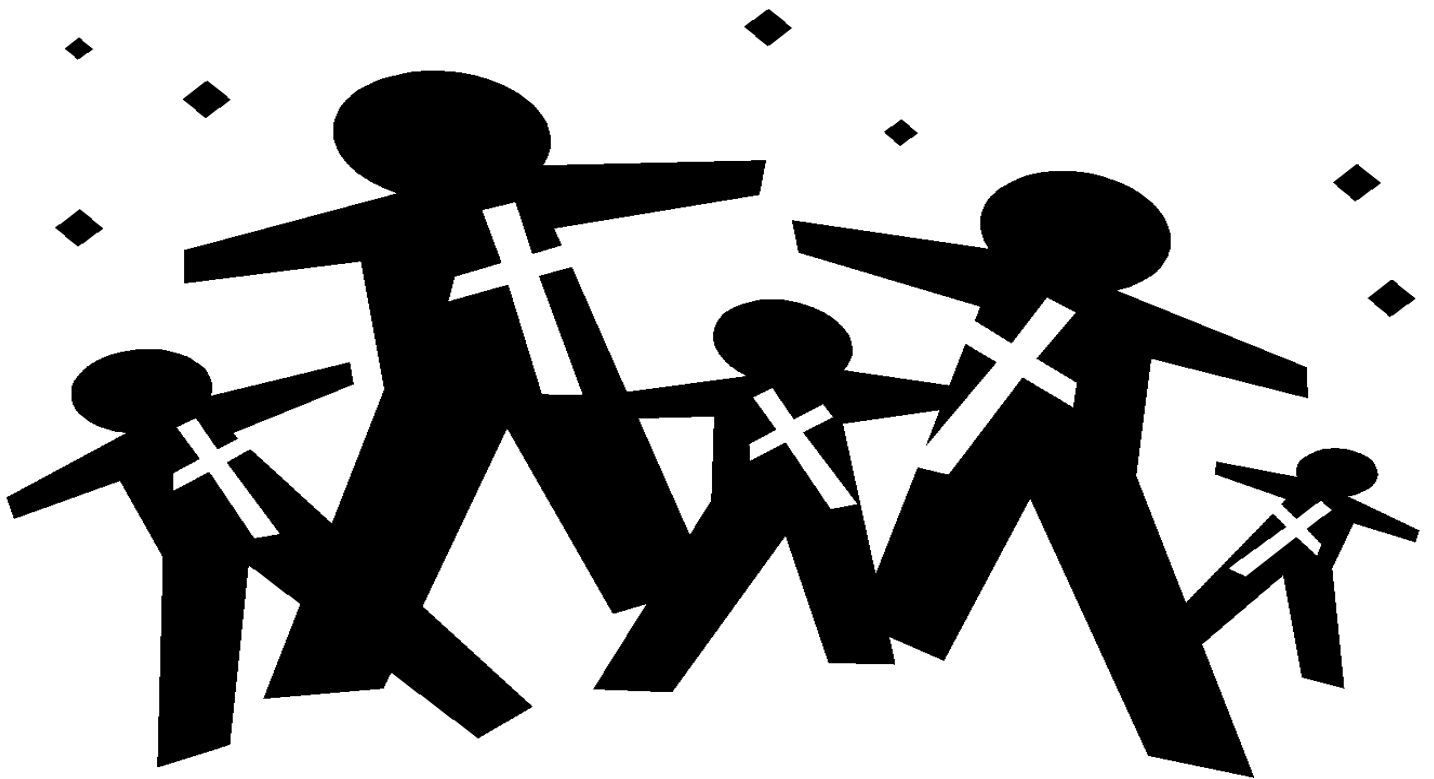


The Comstock Communicator

September 2009

A monthly publication of Comstock Christian Reformed Church



**“If any want to become
my followers, let them
deny themselves and
take up their cross
and follow me.”**

Matthew 16:24, NRSV

Council Updates

Council seeks input from the congregation for names of candidates for a slate of nominees for the offices of elder and deacon. Keep in mind that in November 2008 council opened up these two offices to women after many months of discussion and congregational input. The council also established two policies regarding nominations and eligibility; husbands and wives cannot serve on council together and no more than half the slate of nominees for either office can be women. If you have any names you would like council to consider, please give those names in writing to any council member prior to our Sept. 14, 2009 meeting.

Council will put a list of nominees for the office of elder and deacon together at the Sept. 14 meeting. After that meeting we will send letters to those nominees inviting them to prayerfully consider this calling to the offices of our church. Finally, the nominees will either accept or decline the nomination. If necessary, due to declines, council will approach different individuals. When the slate is complete, it will be presented to the congregation and officers will be chosen by lot at the congregational meeting.

The council covets your prayers on a continuous basis, but especially as we seek the Spirit's guidance in putting nominations together for the council of 2010. Remember the importance and honor of these offices, for it is Christ himself who calls us to serve in His kingdom work in both Comstock CRC and our community.

Comstock CRC Council Notes June 16, 2009 & August 11, 2009

Team Reports: At the current time things are going well.

Correspondences:

Transfer memberships

Pastor Jay & Bev Pruim to Ivanrest CRC

Will Karsten to Church of the Servant CRC in Grand Rapids

Unfinished Business:

Scott Brower will chair Vision Team. Other team members are: Judy Joling (clerk), Pastor Ben, Mark Terpstra, Cindy Amos, Jim Bosch, Jan Larkin, Greg Nowak & Todd Triemstra.

New Business:

Council created an ad hoc committee to look at our funds (Expansion, Memorial, Special Opportunity & Transportation) to put together a printed policy manual to explain what each fund is and what it is used for.

Council will go to the congregation at the next annual congregational meeting for an approved dollar amount that council can spend without congregational approval.

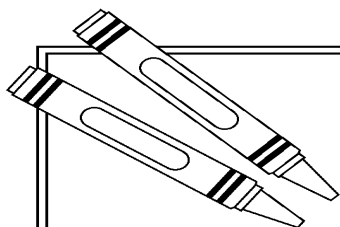
Respectfully submitted,

Jim Bosch, vice-all

Elder Notes

Grape Juice at the Lord's Supper

Over the past four months, the elders have been reviewing how we practice the Lord's Supper in regard to the wine and grape juice. Discussion started following concerns expressed from the congregation regarding our current practice. We have been offering both wine and grape juice in the trays during Communion. This has led to two issues. First, it has been confusing to know which cups hold wine and which hold juice. Secondly, and more importantly, it has raised concern over having wine available at all. The concerns relate to youth participating and the potential for someone struggling with addiction participating. The elders decided to review the issue by consulting Scripture and discussing the practical issues involved. After reviewing the applicable Scripture, we found no strong biblical teaching insisting on the use of wine. We also thought that the practical issues were strong enough to warrant a change of practice for our congregation. After prayer, study, and discussion, we have decided to only offer grape juice for our celebration of the Lord's Supper. If you have any questions or concerns about this, please contact your district elder.



Just for KIDS

Psalms 46:10

Sometimes our lives are so busy that we cannot seem to fit another thing into the day! But there is something very important that we need to do each day.

Find the answer using the code below.

A	B	F	G	K	L	O	R	U	V
D	1	H	2	M	3	S	4	W	5
E		I		N		T		Y	

W

5 1 3 5 4 4

4 1 3 3 4 4 2 4 1

1 3 1 3 2 4 4 1 3

2 4 4 2 4 1

" 1 1 4 4 2 3 3 ' 1 3 1

3 3 4 5 4 2 1 4

2 1 3 2 4 1

We must talk to God and listen for God. "Be still, and know that I am God."

Play a "Listening" Game

Here is a game that you can play by yourself or with a group of friends.

You will need:

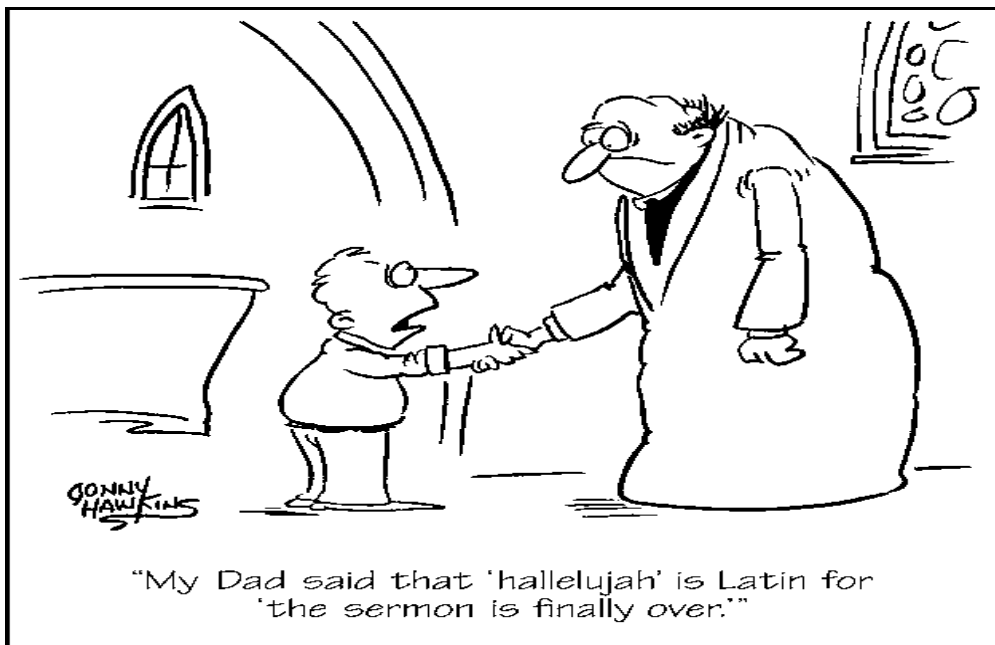
white paper
pencil or
markers or
crayons

How to play:

Draw a large ear on your paper. Make it as big as the paper! Sit quietly. Just listen.



Draw all the sounds that you hear on your "ear." Choose different places to play. Set a time limit. If you're playing with friends, share what you heard.



Vision Team

Perhaps you noticed a "Vision Team" meeting listed on a recent calendar of events and wondered what exactly is the Vision Team? No, there will not be any screenings for near-sightedness, far sightedness – or even cataracts.

Instead, the Vision Team expects to work for the next 12 months, with a vision toward the future – specifically the future of our church. With our eyes fixed on our mission statement, we will carefully and prayerfully evaluate current programs.

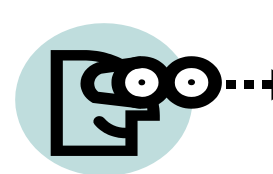
In a few short years, we will celebrate the 100th anniversary of our

church. We have a rich history. As they say, it's in the books. But, how will the next chapters read? The Vision Team will consider how our church's mission is being implemented and what steps are needed to close the gap between what we are and what we hope to be. We will set goals, hoping to anticipate the needs and challenges that will accompany our growth and maturity as a church family.

The Vision Team is grateful for the leadership of our chairman, Scott Brower. Other team members include: Cindy Amos, Jim Bosch,

Pastor Ben, Todd Triemstra, Greg Nowak, Jan Larkin and Mark Terpstra.

We look forward to formally asking for congregational input in the form of a questionnaire, but in the meantime, talk to Scott or any team member if you have thoughts, questions, or ideas to share. Above all, please



keep us in
your
prayers.

With our eyes fixed on our mission statement, we will carefully and prayerfully evaluate current programs.

Congregational Care Team

If you have the gift of caring and compassion then you will NOT want to miss the meeting on Sept. 9 at 6:30. The Congregational Care Ministry Team will be meeting to share stories from their visits with our shut-ins from last year and to sign-up for who they want to visit in the coming year. This team was implemented last Fall by our Council so we have the opportunity to Serve our Lord by using the gifts that He has given to

us. We want our "family" who are not able to meet with us weekly feel apart of us. We visit them when it is convenient for us and this keeps them connected to us.

Pray about this and see if this is where the Lord is calling you. Jesus is our example and we are His hands and feet, we are His servants.

Come on the 9th of Sept. at 6:30 and see what the Congregational Care

Ministry Team is all about. If you have any questions call Ann Triemstra, 385-2361.

Jesus is our example and we are His hands and feet, we are His servants.

New Church Logo



We have chosen a new logo for our church. The First Impressions Team wants to first of all thank everyone who submitted a design. We had over twenty-five submissions. It was great to have so many good submissions to choose from. The First Impressions Team narrowed the field down to two and then Council voted between the final two submissions. We will use the logo on our bulletins, newsletters, pamphlets, and other items. Thank you again for the great input on this process.

The First Impressions Team

Tiger's Baseball Game

On August 6, a perfect day, 46 friends boarded a Chartered bus heading to Detroit, MI. The destination was Comerica Park to see the Tigers play the Baltimore, Orioles. Before boarding the bus everyone was given a sack lunch. On the bus there were many opportunities to win prizes. How much do you know about baseball in general, and how

much do you know about the Detroit Tigers? And then, how much do you know in general about everyday things. (Molly, do you know what a rotary phone is yet?) Much fun was had by all. To top everything off the TIGERS WON!!! After the great win we all boarded our bus again, and returned home at about 7:00. God truly blessed us that day with great

weather, great fellowship, and safe

travel. Maybe we will have to make this an annual event, what do you think?



Go Tigers!

The 2009-2010 SUNDAY SCHOOL SEASON STARTS SEPTEMBER 13!

Singing starts at 10:45

Classes are from 11:00 – 11:45

Here are this year's classes with their teachers:

K-1 Rachel Slager
2-3 Julie Smit
4-5 Karen Tiesman
6-8 Mark & Kim Terpstra
High School: Joanne Smit



Please remember to keep the kids and their teachers in your prayers this year!

Requested Announcements



The 27th Annual Kalamazoo Christian High School Comet Booster Club Golf Tournament will be on Saturday, September 19. The event is a four person scramble starting at 7 AM and will be held at Thornapple Creek Golf Club. This event is a fundraiser for all athletics at Christian High. Please contact Gary Koster, 375-1738, Dave Doorn, 665-9622 or Roy Gooch, 544-0293 for more information.



Alternatives Pregnancy Care Center invites you to their 21st annual fall fundraiser....An Autumn Evening with David Limbaugh. Tuesday, September 15, Calvary Bible Church. Call 345.1740 for information and tickets or www.pregnancychoices.com.

Ladies Bible Study

Ladies, this is a Bible study you won't want to miss.

Eve had food issues. Potiphar's Wife and Delilah had man trouble. Lot's Wife and Michal couldn't let go of the past. Sapphira couldn't let go of her money, and Jezebel couldn't let go of anything. Yet the Woman at the Well quenched her thirst for the truth, while Rahab and the Sinful Woman left their sordid histories behind, proving Bad Girls can have a gloriously good future.

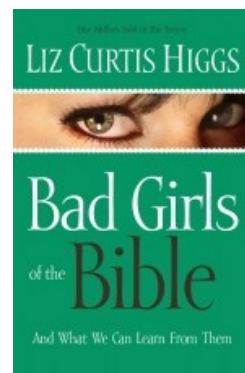
Take a walk on the wild side with a Bible study by Liz Curtis Higgs and her eye opening blend of contemporary fiction and biblical commen-

tary. With a good blend of humor and heartfelt self-disclosure, Liz has helped women of all ages experience God's grace anew.

There will be two opportunities for you to join us in this Bible study. Starting October 7, we will meet on the first and third weeks of the month. We will have a class on Wednesday mornings from 9:30 to 11:00, and new this year, we will also have a class on Thursday evening from 7:00 to 8:30. Both classes will be studying the same book and will be led by Joanne Smit. So pick your best time and plan to join us. Let ten sisters show you why studying the Bible has never been more

fun!

There will be sample books and a sign-up sheet on the table. I have some books ordered, but I would



like to know if I need to order more, so please sign the list and the time you are planning to attend. Thank-you.

Ladies, don't miss out on this Bible study!

GEMS (Girls Everywhere Meeting the Savior)

GEMS Girls Club is inviting all girls 2nd grade—8th grade. Come to church Wednesday, September 16 from 6:30-8:00 PM for our GEMS kick-off, we will have dessert and lots of fun. Bring your badge book, badge banners and a smile. If you don't already have one you will. GEMS meetings will be the first and third Wednesdays of the month from 6:30 - 8:00 PM.

Sept. 16	Kick-off
Oct. 7	lesson/craft
Oct. 21	lesson/craft
Nov. 4	lesson/derby cars
Nov. 18	lesson/derby cars
Dec. 2	To be announced
Dec. 16	Christmas Party/Derby Car Race
Jan. 6	lesson/craft
Jan. 20	lesson/craft
Feb. 3	lesson/craft
Feb. 17	lesson/craft
March 3	Area wide GEMS swim night 7:30-9:00
March 17	lesson/craft
April 7	lesson/craft
April 21	Dessert banquet/Awards night

GEMS Theme for 2009-2010



Thoughts from Pastor Ben

Are you rested and ready? August will be gone in another day and then soon will come the end of summer. I am excited for the fall to come and to go through the first round of the new ministry year. It has been a joy to talk with various people about their excitement for the new year. Those conversations get me excited. I sense a desire for ministry that doesn't just go through the motions, but desires to be effective in discipling and challenging all to maturity in Christ. Growing in maturity will be our focus in the first part of the fall. As we grow, not only do we benefit, but the world benefits as well. What a joy to be children and servants of the great King! Let us be united in this joy.

Here are a few tidbits about things going on.

I Want to Grow Up!—We'll begin our fall season by focusing on Ephesians 4.7-24 as we seek to grow into mature disciples of Christ. From infant to the oldest here, we are all on that path toward maturity. Are you open to God's call to maturity in this year? What challenges might he lay before you to bring you to greater growth in him? What position do you need to put yourself in to grow in him? We don't do this alone, but as a unified body of Christ. So, as we begin this year, let us not be afraid to encourage and challenge each other and let us also not be afraid to receive encouragement and challenge.

Kick-Off 2009 Celebration—September 13 marks the start of our program year as Sunday School resumes that morning and the other programs soon after. We are planning a celebration Sunday that morning with worship, which will be followed by a shortened time for Sunday School culminating in a all-church celebration feast. The Fellowship Team will give details shortly, but plan to bring your appetites and also your friends. We see this as a great opportunity to welcome others to our church family with a great meal and fellowship.

First Impressions —The First Impressions team continues to explore how best to help visitors feel at home in our fellowship. There are two things we're working on right now.

1. First, we plan on restarting the Fellowship Pads that used to be passed. We see this as a better way for us as a team and a church to get to know visitors. They will be a presence in the pews again in the near future. During the offering, I will invite them to passed and we ask that everyone fill them out to create a hospitable atmosphere for visitors. If you have a visitor in your row, please refer to the pad for their name and then introduce yourself to them following the service.
2. Second, we will be hosting a meal for those who have been visiting with us, but are not members to help them get to know the church a little better. The dinner is scheduled for end of September.

Adult Sunday School—Starting on September 20, I will be leading, with Tina Slager, an adult Sunday school class. The first offering this fall will be studying the first part of Genesis. I would like to offer various subjects throughout the year, so if you have input, please let me know. Also, please plan to attend. It will be take place in the fellowship hall.

In Christ's Love—Pastor Ben

WHAT'S NEW IN THE LIBRARY?

Looks like summer is about over, and it's back to our fall routines once again. The kids will be busy with schoolwork, but hopefully the adults will find a bit of time to expand their knowledge, stoke their faith, challenge their thought processes, or just escape into a satisfying, inspiring story. Look for the new and donated material below to help you do just that:

Sports:

Beyond Belief by *Josh Hamilton* - The powerfully honest story of baseball's most promising young star, an All-American boy who was destined for fame and wealth before he lost everything in a hopeless, downward spiral into drug addiction and despair. But our God is a God of the impossible, and He always offers hope no matter what the situation, as Josh found out so wonderfully. His journey back to spiritual redemption and triumph is a marvelous story, whether or not you are a sports fan.

Fiction:

Simple Gifts by *Lori Copeland* - Taking place in a delightful small town full of eccentric people, this story features 43-year-old Marlene Queens from Chicago, who has returned to her childhood home in Missouri to settle a family estate. As one thing leads to another, Marlene sees her entire life being rearranged before her eyes, and she fears the secret she has kept for 20 years may be revealed with disastrous consequences.

A Woman's Place by *Lynn Austin* - Another offering from one of our favorite authors, set at the beginning of WWII during the early 1940's, although it can have many implications for this time in America. Under the storm clouds of destruction that threaten America, an unlikely group of women will experience life in sometimes startling new way as their beliefs are challenged and they struggle toward a new understanding of what love and sacrifice truly mean.

Inspirational:

In His Image by *Dr. Paul Brand & Philip Yancey* - A companion volume to Fearfully and Wonderfully Made, the authors continue their fascinating exploration of the human body and its metaphorical counterpart, the spiritual body. They open up new areas theologically in their thoughts about God, how He works in this world, what the blood of Christ really symbolizes, how the Holy Spirit operates, and in the final, moving section - the pain of God.

Not the Way It's Supposed To Be - A Breviary of Sin by *Cornelius Plantinga, Jr.* - the author "has accomplished the feat of writing a delightful book that probes deeply into a grim subject - human sin, in all of its multifarious disguises and stubborn ingenuity. In the present moral climate . . . this is in every sense of the word a healthy book" (Glenn Tinder).

CD - **"The Crist Family - Gospel Classics Volume II"** - A delightful, toe-tapping, memory-invoking collection of gospel songs sung by a wonderful blend of voices.

DVD - **"If You Want to Walk on Water, You've Got to Get Out of the Boat"** by *John Ortberg* - Small groups may be interested in using this six-session journey on learning to trust God, but it could be used by individuals or families as well.

Today is Tuesday, Aug. 25, 2009 and my dad passed away into Glory at 10:30 in the morning. I got the news from John at 10:40. I was getting ready to leave for the VA hospital to stay with dad. My first feeling was anger at myself for not getting to the hospital earlier so I, too, could witness his passing into heaven. It wasn't meant for me to be there but Sharon, John, Neal and Elaine were. Sharon described it like this, "Dad was getting another shot of morphine (for pain) and another tylenol suppository (for fever). The male nurse asked Sharon to hold dad's hand. As they were turning dad and Sharon was finding his hand Sharon noticed dad took a couple of deep breaths. Elaine then said "he isn't breathing". Just like that all color drained from his face. No more pain for my dad. What an awesome God we have.

After much feeling of guilt and crying, I came to realize that my being present in the room was not in God's plan. I need to accept God had his reasons and be at peace with this.

Howard called Mark, Jason & Rick (who is at His Mansion). Mark & his family are vacationing in Florida. We feel thankful that Jason was able to see, talk and pray with grandpa last night, an experience he will remember forever.

Thinking back on the last few days, God has also given me a gift. I was able to pray with dad alone and many times with other family members around his bed holding hands. Singing of the hymns (dad's favorite music) was so meaningful and will be treasured for the rest of my life. Talking with family members about dad's life and learning so much more about dad that I never knew. Wow, I am so thankful.

Dad, Joyce & I had a talk about where Rick is at in his spiritual life and dad learned that Rick is a brand new Christian. I let dad know of my desire for him to be able to give Rick "words of wisdom" but since he couldn't, he could pass the torch onto me and I would give Rick words of wisdom. I know God will help me with this, all I need to do is ask. Joyce then said why doesn't dad become Rick's guardian angel and we know in our hearts he agreed.

Many times we sang the "Thank You" song to dad and through this song, I was able to tell dad how he changed my life. I could see how much he enjoyed our singing through all our tears. What a blessing!

I had many one-on-one talks with dad. Me talking and he listening and we were trying to imagine him walking and talking with God. How now he would actually see what an angel looks like and visit with his precious Saviour Jesus Christ. We agreed he was going to have a little talk with Adam and Eve when he got the chance. We know Mom, his daughter Jill, his dad & mom, and many others will be waiting for him and were probably getting ready for the celebration they were going to have welcoming dad into the kingdom of heaven. I was so happy and excited just thinking about all the great things dad was going to experience in a day or two. What peace I have in knowing God has answered all our prayers, including dad's, and how the smile on his face and the awe in his eyes when he died reminded me of dad's first look into the glory of God.

Dodie Nash

September Birthdays

1 Jaime VanderLugt
 6 Jim Bosch
 7 Evelyn Kemp
 8 Helen Burkhead
 8 Anne Joling
 9 Pearl Doorn
 10 Pete DenHartigh
 11 Bernadene Dykstra
 14 Gladys Kannegieter
 26 Mark Terpstra
 26 Grace Triemstra
 29 Ross DeBruyn
 29 Tyler Tiesman

Anniversaries

9/4/48 Rein & Lena
 VanOosterum
 9/20/57 Herm & Darlene
 Cramer
 9/6/63 Paul & Evelyn
 Kemp
 9/27/68 Tom & Ann
 Triemstra
 9/28/84 Jim & Tina
 Slager

The Communicator is published by
 and for the members and friends of
 Comstock CRC.

Editor: Lisa Bosch
 Library Notes: Thea McNeilage

The October issue will come out on
 Oct. 4, all articles must be submitted
 by Sept. 30.

September Schedules

NURSERY

	<u>AM</u>	<u>PM</u>
9/6	Greg & Sueann Nowak Family	Joanne Smit
9/13	Roger & Chris Selles Family	Courtney Bosch
9/20	Tina, Ruth & Ronda Slager	Karen Triemstra
9/27	Mike & Dawn Kersten Family	Rachel Slager

OFFERINGS

	<u>AM</u>	<u>PM</u>
9/6	General Fund/Christian Ed	Housing Resources, Inc.
9/13	General Fund/Benevolent	Christian Education
9/20	General Fund/Christian Ed.	Missions
9/27	General Fund/Christian Ed.	Abuse Prevention

ACCOMPANISTS

	<u>AM</u>	<u>PM</u>
9/6	Kay Triemstra	Joy Koning
9/13	Barb Hassing	Larry Boekeloo
9/20	Kay Triemstra	Anne Barnes
9/27	Marty Schuiteboer	Larry Boekeloo

LIBRARIANS

9/6	Grace Slager
9/13	Grace Slager
9/20	Mardell Terpstra
9/27	Mardell Terpstra

GREETERS

AM - Pete DenHartigh & Mardell Terpstra
 PM - Grace Slager & Tressa Smit

SONG SERVICE LEADERS

9/6	Mark Smit
9/13	Molly Selles
9/20	Kelli Terpstra
9/27	Harold Terpstra

WELCOME CENTER

9/6	Howard & Dodie Nash
9/13	Roger & Chris Selles
9/20	Jim & Tina Slager
9/27	Greg & Sueann Nowak

TECH TEAM

9/7	Jim & Tina Slager
9/13	Mark & Matt Terpstra
9/20	Scott & Seth Brower
9/27	Jim & Tina Slager